

Estimating the Economic Impact of Secondhand Smoke on Marion County, Indiana 2010

Terrell W. Zollinger, DrPH
Robert M. Saywell, Jr., PhD, MPH
Cynthia K. Lewis, MPH

Bowen Research Center
Department of Family Medicine – IU School of Medicine

Secondhand smoke costs the residents of Marion County \$195 million dollars¹ annually in excess medical expenses, or about \$216 dollars per person each year. The burden of these expenses is assumed by businesses, government, and individual citizens.

Overall costs of attributed to secondhand smoke for Marion County residents in 2010 = \$195.3 million dollars
--

Secondhand smoke health care costs Marion County \$216 dollars per person each year.

Scientific evidence confirms that there is no safe, risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Exposure to secondhand smoke causes many medical conditions in adults, including lung cancer, nasal sinus cancer, breast cancer, cervical cancer, ischemic heart disease, stroke, eye and nasal irritation, spontaneous abortions and asthma.

In addition, other studies have suggested that exposure to secondhand smoke may be causally associated with adult leukemia, angina pectoris (severe chest pain), hearing loss, allergies, periodontal disease, dysmenorrhea (severe pelvic pain during menstruation), colds, pneumonia, meningitis, macular degeneration, congestive heart failure and cardiac arrhythmia.

Exposure of children to secondhand smoke has been linked to low birth weight, sudden infant death syndrome, respiratory syncytial virus bronchiolitis (RSV), asthma exacerbations, otitis media (middle ear infections), chronic respiratory symptoms, cystic fibrosis exacerbation, allergies, meningitis, loss of hearing and cognitive behavioral impairment. Many adults and children are also injured in fires started by lit cigarettes.

An estimated 134 adults, children and infants in Marion County died in 2010 from diseases definitively tied to secondhand smoke by the U.S. Surgeon General. These lives lost are entirely preventable.

¹ Based on data from 2008 hospital and 2010 death data, reported in 2010 dollars.

**Total Health Care and Loss of Life Costs for Selected SHS Related Conditions
Marion County, Indiana 2010**

Adults

Total Hospitalization Costs	\$79,213,117	
Total Loss of Life Costs	\$95,314,450	
Total Costs for Adults		\$174,527,567

Children

Total Health Care Costs	\$9,313,027	
Total Loss of Life Costs	\$11,492,399	
Total Costs for Children		\$20,805,426

Total Costs for Adults and Children **\$195,332,993**

Total per Capita Costs **\$216**

Citation: Zollinger, T., Saywell, R., Lewis C. Estimating the Economic Impact of Secondhand Smoke on Marion County, Indiana. November 2011.

The full study can be found at www.smokefreeindy.com.